

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5557

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IN YO

SUBJ: CANCELLATION OF PRESIDENT TITO'S VISIT TO INDIA

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 12326, (B) COLOMBO 3181

1. IN RESPONSE REF A, WE FIND YUGOSLAV POL COUNS JEVREMOVIC'S EXPLANATION PLAUSIBLE IF NOT COMPLETE. DURING TITO'S VISIT EARLIER THIS YEAR TO LATIN AMERICA HE CUT BACK NUMBER OF EVENTS AFTER BECOMING TIRED. HE IS IN REMARKABLY GOOD SHAPE FOR HIS 84 YEARS BUT THERE ARE LIMITS, WHICH HE MAY HAVE EXCEEDED WITH HIS EXTENSIVE ROUND OF BILATERALS AND OTHER MEETINGS IN COLOMBO.

2. ON OTHER HAND IF YUGOSLAV-INDIAN RELATIONS AS UNTROUBLED AS JEVREMOVIC IMPLIED, TITO MIGHT HAVE MADE MORE OF AN EFFORT TO COME. INDIAN CHARGE' HERE TOLD US SEVERAL WEEKS AGO

THAT THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN "STRAINED" BY YUGOSLAV CHAMPIONSHIP OF ROMANIAN OBSERVER STATUS AND THAT GOY HAD STILL NOT RECOVERED FROM GUILT COMPLEX CAUSED BY THEIR FAILURE TO SUPPORT INDIA OVER BANGLADESH IN 1971. FOR THEIR PART YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US OF UNHAPPINESS WITH INDIA FOR NOT TAKING MORE ACTIVE
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LEADERSHIP ROLE IN NON-ALIGNED IN RECENT YEARS AND FOR

NOT LENDING THEIR PRESTIGE TO YUGOSLAV EFFORTS ON SPECIFIC
ISSUES (COLOMBO 3181 INDICATES INDIANS MAY HAVE RETURNED
TO NEHRU-ERA ACTIVISM AND TO CLOSER COOPERATION WITH
YUGOSLAVS BUT WE HAVE NOT DETECTED THIS SO FAR HERE - PERHAPS
MORE THE COLOMBO MEETING'S SOUTH ASIAN LOCUS RATHER
THAN A LONG-TERM CHANGE). YUGOSLAVS ALSO VOICE
UNHAPPINESS WITH SOVIET-INDIAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY, AND
FEAR THAT INDIANS MAY GET TOO DEPENDENT ON SOVIETS, E.G.,
WERE NERVOUS ABOUT CRITICISM OF YUGOSLAVIA IN PRO-SOVIET
INDIAN PAPERS LIKE "PATRIOT". AND AS AMEMBASSY DELHI HAS
REPORTED, THERE HAS BEEN RIVALRY BETWEEN THEM OVER THE
NONALIGNED PRESS POOL'S LOCATION AND MANAGEMENT, WHICH
YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE TANJUG FOUNDED. FINALLY WE UNDERSTAND
YUGOSLAVS WERE MIFFED BY AND REJECTED GOI PROPOSAL FOR STOP-
TRER IN BELGRADE BY PM GANDHI AFTER HER VISIT TO THE GDR.

3. THUS WHILE STATE OF YUGOSLAV-INDIAN RELATIONS PERMITS
CONSIDERABLE COOPERATION WITHIN CONTEXT OF NONALIGNED, IT
IS FAR FROM TRANQUIL IDEAL BOTH SIDES USUALLY PRESENT TO
THE WORLD.

CAB SILBERMAN

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